

09/367,423

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REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application respectfully is requested.

The restriction requirement is traversed for at least the following reasons. Claims directed to similar features, although recited differently, are in different groups. One example is represented by Group I claims 117, 118 and 119 and Group II claims 123, 124, 128, 129, 131 and 132; respective claims point out size or birefringence characteristics. Another example is Group I claims 106, 114, 115 and 116 and Group II claims 105 and 125. Elected claim 105 (Group II) ultimately depends from independent claim 106 (Group I); and claim 105 includes a recitation concerning the inherent mask that transmits light without substantial scattering. The foregoing is contrasted with claim 115 (Group I) and claim 116 (Group I), both of which depend from claim 114 (Group I); claims 115 and 116 point out the mask being substantially transparent or substantially non-scattering, respectively. Elected claim 125 (Group II) is a method claim that includes the locating of a mask for transmitting light without substantial scattering. At least for the foregoing reasons it is submitted that the subject matter of both the claims of Group I and Group II should be examined in the same patent application.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the restriction requirement respectfully is requested.

Action on the merits of this application also respectfully is requested.

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If there are any questions or if the Examiner feels that favorable prosecution could be expedited by telephone interview, he is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned Attorney at the number below.

An Extension of Time and the appropriate fee are filed herewith by facsimile.

Respectfully submitted,
RENNER OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

DATE: 2/5/03

Warren A. Sklar
Warren A. Sklar, Registration No. 26,373

The Keith Building
1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
PH: (216) 621-1113
FAX: (216) 621-6165

Enclosure: Extension of Time
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